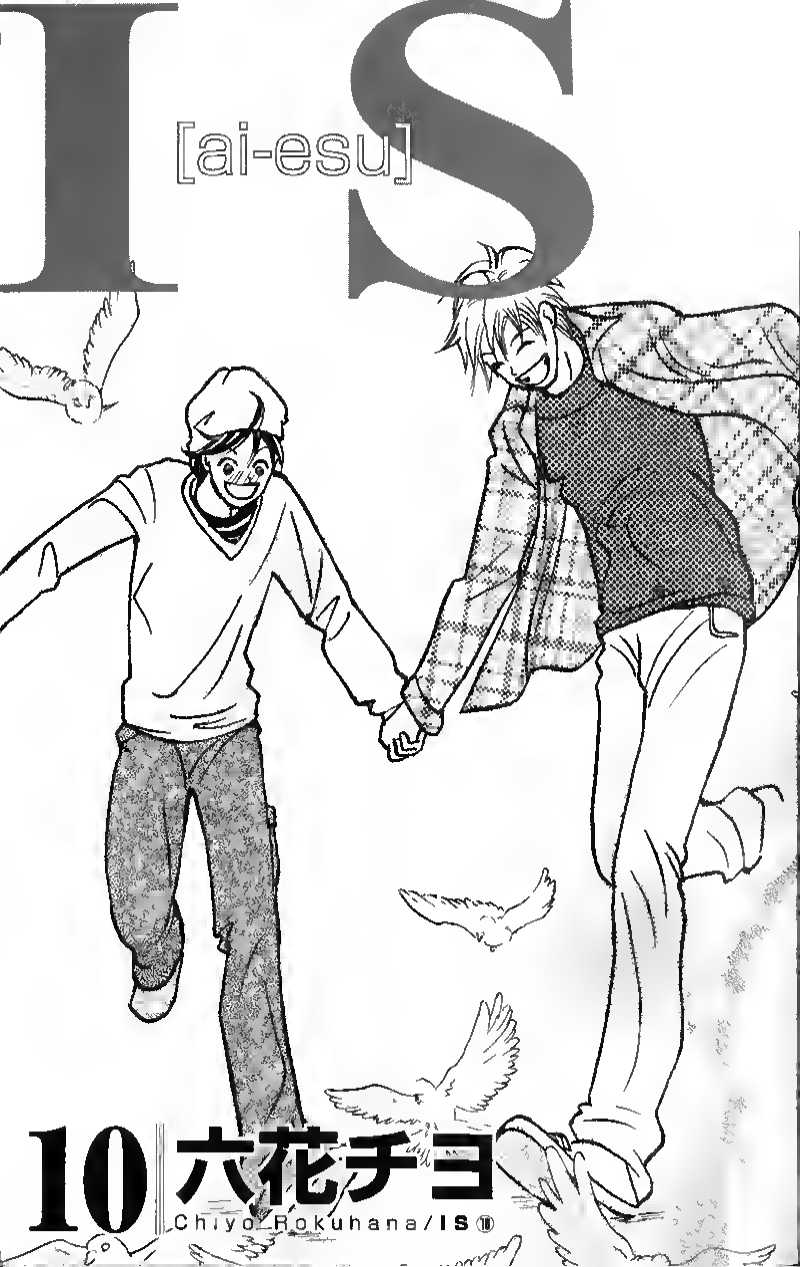
IS

[ai-esu]



10

六花チヨ

Chiyo Rokuhana/IS⑩

CASE 3 : Haru 41

I [ai-esu] S 10

Characters

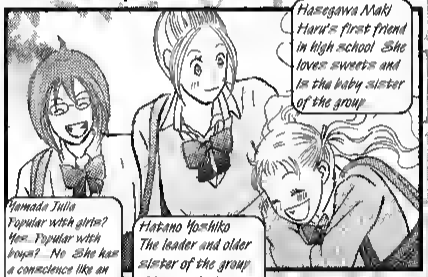
Ibuki Kenji
Haru's first love. When he first found out that Haru was intersex, he put some distance between them, but eventually learned to see past "male" and "female" and declared his love for Haru!

Hoshino Haru
An intersex person born with both male and female sex organs. He identifies as male, but his body is becoming progressively more female. Still in high school, he has the support of his family and wishes to live as intersex.

<Haru's Friend>

Motoki Hirotaka
He's cute, but has a complex about his height

<The Culinary Sisters>



Hasegawa Maki
Haru's first friend in high school. She loves sweets and is the baby sister of the group

Hamada Julia
Popular with girls? Yes. Popular with boys? No. She has a conscience like an iron wall and is the mother of the group

Hatano Yoshiko
The leader and older sister of the group. She once had to have an abortion

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★この物語はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体名等とは関係ありません。

Spring.
The spring of 11th grade.
ピヨピヨ

OK!
What do you think, Haru?
They're going to a concert.
Some idol.
Huh? What?
Do I look cute?
Sexy?
Yeah, yeah.
He might see me in the crowd and fall instantly in love...!!
You never know!
ドガ
Can't she get a real man?
Kinda sad to see her living in a dream-world.

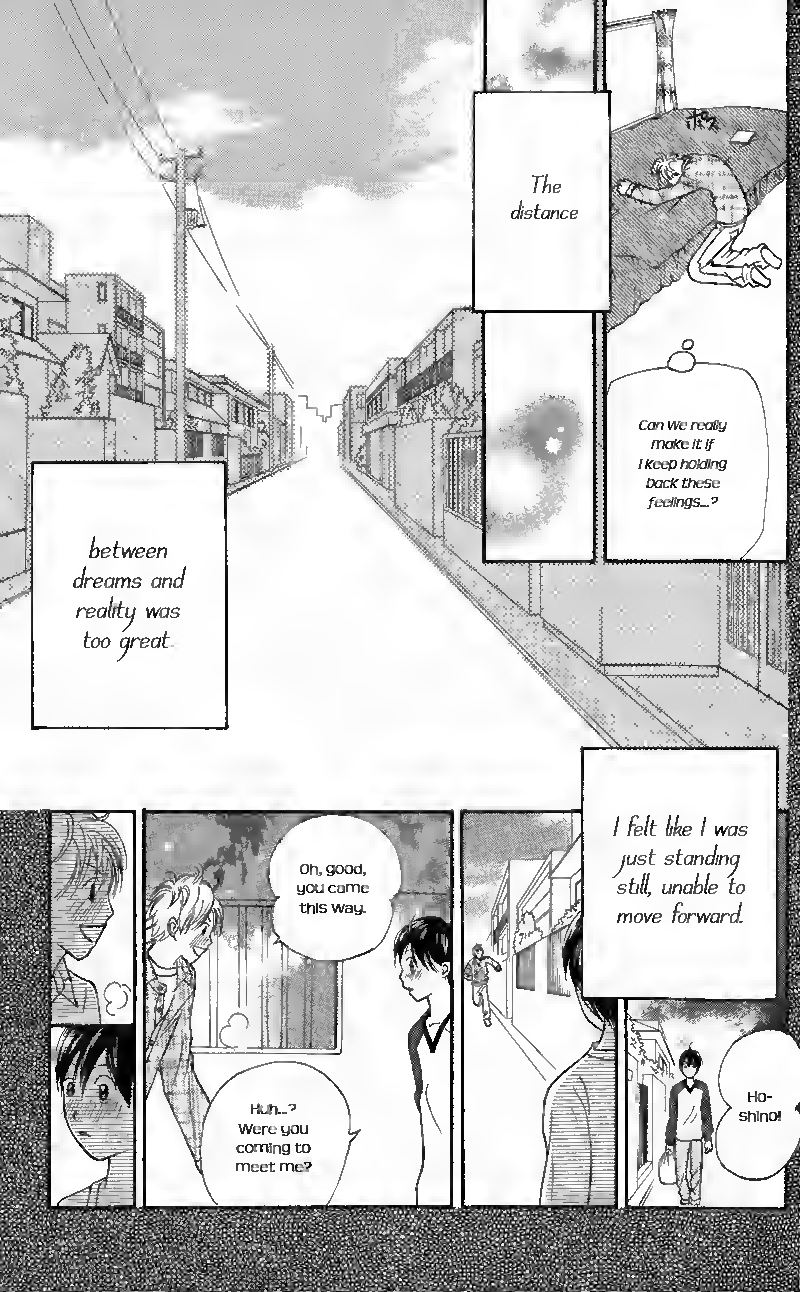
a few days ago
that my feelings overwhelmed me and I kissed him.
It was just
チュッ
He's so cool♡
I'd never felt my body respond like that before.
Like a warmth spreading through me.
And I wanted to love him even more.
But once I thought about it calmly,
I realized that was just my female side responding
and I let it overwhelm me.
...Of course it was.
It's only female organs that are left inside me.
But

Now when I dream
It's of me and Ibuki making love physically.
But in reality,
my feelings can't keep up with my body's changes.
We can't go any further than this.
And I don't know how to face him after that.
ドキ

You're not going to sell them, though?
You've gotten really good at those
Wow, really?
They're too expensive and time-consuming to make,
so we can't sell them
No.
You
Cake?
want to bring it over now?
I wonder if I could like this.

OK,
I'll be waiting!!
There!
Soccer
Books Hashima would like

It's not gonna happen!
Gah
There!
"Just ..."
"...One more?"


The distance
Can We really make it if I keep holding back these feelings...?
between dreams and reality was too great.
I felt like I was just standing still, unable to move forward.
Ho-shino!
Oh, good, you came this way.
Huh...? Were you coming to meet me?

Who's that?
Oh...
.....
Um... I thought I'd carry it for you if it was too heavy.
Haha
My aunt.
She checks in on me every once in a while...
His aunt...?
Huh?

Ibuki's family situation was complicated.
That kid's here again.
Oh, right
Brother.
Let's go, Hoshino.
Didn't she notice me?
When his parents got divorced,
his dad
told his mom that he would support her
if she promised not to see Ibuki,
so she didn't contact him.
But Ibuki went to see her anyway

Underpants?
Haru wears men's underwear
パターン
My mom sent this stuff for our class trip
Ibuki...
Is it...
No, no, it's just all this family stuff.
Because of you and me...?
Have you still not seen her again?
I just
haven't seen her in a while

"I thought the people at the center might like some cake, too."
He used to
really look forward to seeing her every week.
Ibuki...
He seems sad.
Ibuki!
I know.
That cake I promised,
can I bring it to the center?
How many people are there? How many should I bring?
...All right
All right.
I'll make enough.
15 people. And then there's the carers, so...
20...?
.....

So let's go give it to them to gether!!
Whaat?
Boys' Early Morning Cake
Why us?
Is IDUKI... having family problems?
I'm sorry!

It's so hypo-critical—
I hate doing volunteer work.
If we do this, then Izuki can see his mom.
But there's no way I can make enough on my own.
Your heart is so small!
You're so small!
IDIOT!
Oh, I was asking them to help me with the cakes..
.....
Sniff
What are you guys doing?
That's why Hasegawa hates you!
You're totally insensitive!
You call short people small! That's what's wrong with you, Haradal
Don't say she hates me!
Like that!
You're the one who's small, Motoki!

So where should we start, Hoshino-kun?
You're so enthusiastic!
Good luck!
With their help, I was able to make enough cakes.
And...
This is hard, Hoshino!
They're too expensive and time-consuming.
Whew!
Done!
We were confronted with the reality of Dad's statement.

ガラ
Akebono Workshop

.....
hey
...Hel..
...ia.
They're all happy to see you.

But they just freeze up when outsiders visit.
They start comparing themselves.
Sorry, We've really been looking forward to this.
trying to be a boy
Maybe it's no use
My name is Hoshino
I want to be a patissier...
Um...
.....

It means I was born with both male and female organs...
Hi, hey
I'm...
Uh...
I love soccer
Intersex.
had to quit.
but I
Because
I love soccer ...
And it's a really fun cake...
as "a fun dessert"...
So when I thought about cake
the first thing that came to mind
was a soccer ball

So I want to share it with you all.
Hey!
Not yet.
Thank you.
But
I still haven't perfected it.
That's a beautiful cake.

Whether we were born like this
...You know,
or it happened sometime later in life,
...Custo mers, huh?
They won't let me put it out for the customers at work...
That would be nice...
everyone's nice
and it's fun, I guess? ...At least I think so.
And...
so we come here
it's hard to get a job at a regular company,
But...
then it hits me...
I'm living my whole life here.
In the same place
With the same people

Sometimes I think
the more comfortable it is... the harder it is to go outside.
And I feel... like... I'm shut in.
Here.
あけぼの
キコ～
I started thinking about what we could do.
So!

Jam?
It's made with strawberries from a nearby farm.
クスクス
?
And look.
Bread?
Something smells good!
We're still developing it!!
The jam wasn't selling very well on its own,
so we thought we'd draw customers in with the smell
What does fresh bread need?
Huh?
And what do you think we made next?
……

It's just the outside...
Baked Fresh
Akebono Bread
A mobile bakery!!
What do you think? Isn't it great?
It took forever
and we were covered in paint,
but we managed to get it from paper to reality
So...
someday we're going to make it run.
Then everyone can work
and we can get out in the world!!

He seemed so powerful I couldn't believe he needed a wheelchair
I was surprised.
And sometimes they'll say
"It was delicious"
Then we'll all say "welcome!"
And society will accept us!!
All of us here at the center!!
あけぼの
He's so full of hope...
It will be great!

Thank you for today.
Oh...
I've heard a lot about you from Kenji.
He says you're amazing.
and you influence people.
Always earnest
and open with your feelings

I want everyone to understand.
I just
Influ-ence?
No way...
When they see I'm intersex,
I want them to realize everyone is different.
But I want people to treat me like a guy.
I may look like this,
It may be a wish,
but...

Reality is made up of wishes
あけぼの
It may be impossible now,
but if you keep doing what you can, eventually they'll come true.
Someday
dreams will become reality.

Every -one
said thank you,
but I'm the one who's thankful.
I learned that today
I'm glad I came.
I want to say "You cheered me up".
Good.

Kenji may seem self-sufficient,
but he's fragile, too.
I'm relieved.
It's my fault...
But...
he'll be OK with you.
As long as he has your strength.

And
Take good care of him
stay with him forever
Hey.

What's your dream, Ibuki?
I want to become a first-class patissier
After graduation, I'll go out in the world
no, and train until I'm as good...
better than my dad!!
I wanted to talk about our dreams
so that someday they'd become reality
Once...
And...
I'm on my own,
I want to become a nurse so I can help my mom out.
What about you?

I want to become the kind of man who can live with you.
Thanks for today.
Huh?

Hoshino, when you talk about your dreams,
you shine so bright
But...
and I love you so much
when I try to touch you,
you always freeze up...

I promise
someday
I'll grow up
and be a
strong man

I thought we could make it
no matter how distant our dreams,
we can make them reality
As long as I have Ibuki...
The unseen hurdles will make us stronger
That's...
what I believed

IS [ai-esu]
Volume 10 Chapter 41
by ROKUHANA Chiyo

Ki: Typeset
malaysian branch

Koshi: Scanned
canadian branch

Megchan: Translated
american branch

Fourchaise: Cleaned
french branch

Dokukinoko Scanlations

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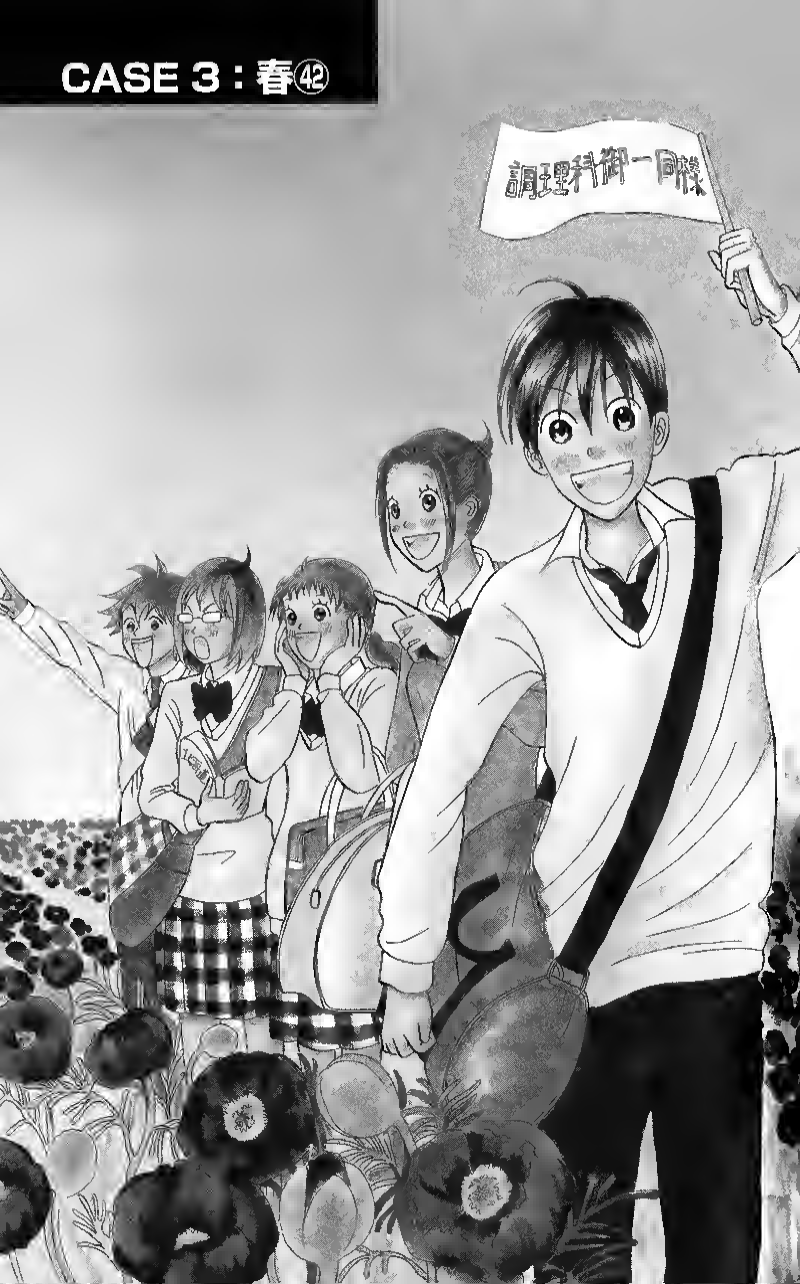
CASE 3：春㊷



ゴー
オオオ
Here we are.
Hokkaido!!
It's July, and for 2nd year students...
that means a class trip.

Cool!
Wow!
It's our first and last big event!!
The excitement of the trip changes everyone
And there's horses, too! Horses!!
Oh! Sheep!!
Hey, hey, let's all take a picture together!!
Uh
Oh! A flower garden!
Want some?
It's beautiful!
A meadow!!
It's huge!
Or maybe it just awakens their true personalities.
Maki!? You bought all those on our first day here!?
Look!! Caramels!
Genghis Khan!

It's only been 10 minutes since we arrived
Please calm down
キキッ
First of all...
That perv Suzuki turned pure-hearted.
Uh, my name is Nakajima Miyuki
Miyuki
Na
And that's our driver, Kumi-yama
Nice to meet you all
I'll be your guide for the next 4 days

Note: Nakajima Miyuki is the name of a famous singer. That's why they're surprised at the guide's name

I...I'm new at this, sorry...
THUNK
What?
It's Nakajima Miyuki's "Fight!"
THOSE WHO DON'T FIGHT MAY LAUGH AT YOU
It's love.
Love. ♡
FIGHT!
YOU'RE A FIGHTER AND THIS IS YOUR SOOOOONG
"Fight!"
I never went to high school
So I can't find a job
The woman wrote
Her letters spiky and shaky
Suzuki!
That's so dark!
You picked the wrong song!

OK, guess I'll go see Motoki.
please return to your rooms for the night.
OTAKU HOTEL
Uh, and now
Second, the boys started acting totally stupid!
MIDDLE SCHOOL TRIP
Target: Leon
After all
the middle school trip was pretty horrible.
sleeping in the infirmary
GAH—
That hurts!
Cooling spray
...Well, this is high school, so maybe they've grown up a little...
ガチャッ

Hoshino, help!
I'm making little Motoki kun bigger.
Rollers
Hanger
What're you doing?
Huh ?
Ha ha ha!
Don't...
Not there...
I really will get bigger!
パタン
S, stop!
HA HA HA HA!
Growl Growl
the girls showed their true colors!!
And third...
I'm bored.

ドキッ
Haru!
Thank goodness you had some extras.
Ha ha!
I never know when I'm going to get mine...
Haru... do you want to come to our room?
WA HA HA!
Huh?
There's an extra space.
Come on, sleep with us.
I went to Yocchan's room

Even us girls get a little rowdy on a trip like this.
So the boys don't come up.
because I was lonely
Has he been there this whole time?
He said he'll stay up all night
What?
So there's always some who'll try to sneak out.
I mean, the mood's right and everything.
What if...
Haru-chan!!
the conversation turned pretty deep!!
As the night wore on
Haru?

Right?
Yeah...
...well.
I heard it doesn't hurt that much.
Some-times it even feels good.
Hirai-chan said so
It hurts your first time?
Like with blood and stuff
Julia?
When you kiss...
and he touches you
a change comes over your body ..you know?
?
A change?
.....
Um
.....
You
What?
..get wet?

So it's true.
It's true!
And it makes you
want it even more...
How can you say that!?
Eeeeeek!
What happened!?
What? What!?
Spit it out!
Told them everything
And then Ibuki-kun...
And you couldn't stop...
You kissed...

I want someone to say that to me!
Wahhhhhh! I'm so jealous!
Shh!
Shh!
Said "I won't do anything you don't want to do."
...Right?
……
My first time...
ポス
"Maki, go take a shower."
I want him to say
"I want you."
"Come here."
So...
But I'll be too nervous to come out of the bathroom..
ゴロ

ドサッ
He'll be a little rough and toss me onto the bed.
ガバー
Creak...
"Are you trembling, Maki?"
"You're so cute."
ゴッ
Eeee

They're even worse than the boys...
Can't you sleep?
I was just remembering.
Listening to Maki made me remember I used to have dreams like that.

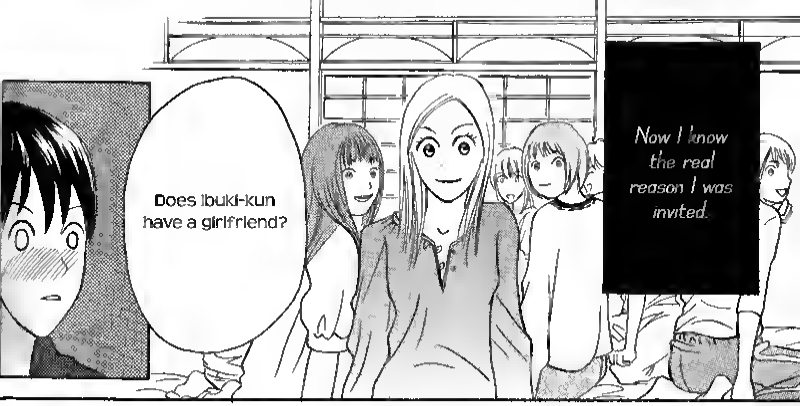
I don't regret...
Oh...
going out with him.
It really hurt.
But we had good times, too...
It's just...
Sometimes I wonder
what happened to the life I snuffed out that day?

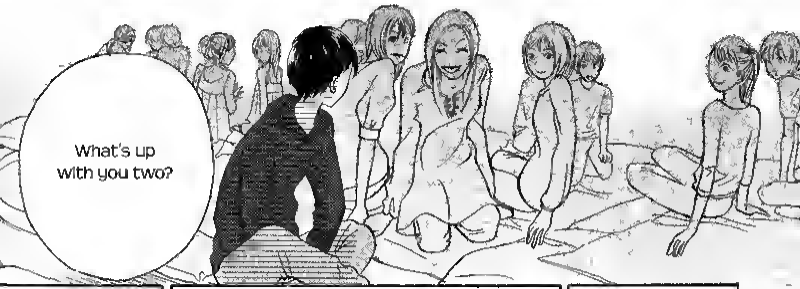
Did it make it to heaven?
.....
I hope...
It didn't get lost....
.....

Seeing
If you...
get cold
you'll get a stomach ache.
a different side of everyone
You too, Haru.
and spending the night with them
made me feel
like we were connected on an even deeper level than before.

Rumors spread
about last night.
...Huh?
Day 2- Furano
ガヤガヤ
...Huh?
And for some reason the girls invited me to their room again.
THE BIG ROOM (20 GIRLS)
In other words, all the girls from Culinary Arts.
Sorry to bother you.
Yip!

Hey, hey, does XX-kun have a girl-friend?
Do you know XO-kun's email?
Call OO-kun!
That's why?
A, all right.
Sorry, Motoki, can I ask you a favor?
Wow...
Everyone's divided up into groups.
THE FLASHY GROUP (LED BY MOTOKI'S IDOL, HIRAI-SAN)
THE LEADER GROUP
THE PEACEFUL GROUP
THE MOUSY GROUP
And
Hoshino-san.


Does Ibuki-kun have a girlfriend?
Now I know the real reason I was invited.


What's up with you two?

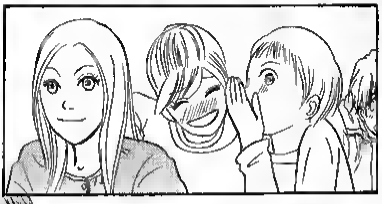
クスクス
In the excitement of the trip...
……

Haru.
...Uh.

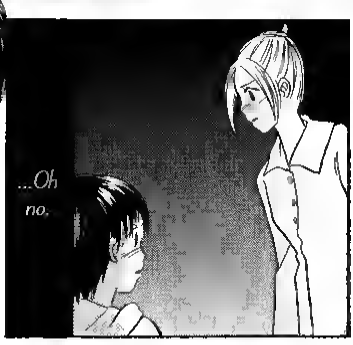
The teacher's going to come by soon. We'd better go to sleep.

I was the sideshow.
That's how it felt

Hey, Hatano-san, are the rumors, true?



It's a lie.
The father was Yoshida kun from class 1!
That she had an abortion.
You can't run away now...
Rumors...?


...Oh no.

made it up 'cause he was pissed off
when she dumped him!!
.....
Yoshida
But this one is true.
Me and Ibuki
are dating.

WHAAAAAAT!?
But...
It's more like we're just friends.
We're dating, but we haven't done anything.
It's not like that.
No way!
Nothing? Really!?
I don't want anyone to see me naked. What can we do?

I worry
that if we made love...he wouldn't like me anymore.
not that brave
And I'm...
but I feel really bad about it.
And Ibuki
says he's OK with that,
I love him.
So I keep my distance.

but I feel like a girl with Ibuki.
I thought I was a guy...
...And...
I wish I could get rid of that part of me...
And it's not right.
But then we couldn't have that sort of happiness everyone wishes for.
So...
Even though I want to trust him...

I don't think this can last.
I'm so
.....
worried...
all the...
time...
.....
um...

It's better than a love
that's only physical.
You two actually get each other.
Huh?
I know
... but ... your body has its problems
I think
...It's OK.
Maybe having a heart that's both male and female
That's what I think,
Looking at you, it seems so natural.
It doesn't seem weird at all to me.
Is a good thing?

...So...
as a woman,
I want you to treasure that female part of you...
OK?
Let's go to sleep
Thanks...

You covered for Hatano-san yesterday, didn't you?
ドキ
That was cool.
I was starting to see
everyone's true feelings
A...

Thanks for yesterday.
I was so happy.
I saw so much
The nasti ness
The maturity
The kindness
It's no use
won't let it get me down.
But I'm OK.
...I...
There are a lot of things I have in common with girls.
over what you can't change.
worrying

And I started to think
maybe it was OK if there was a female part of me
that was like them.
This is actually a pretty good song.
Fight! Youre a fighter and this is your soooong

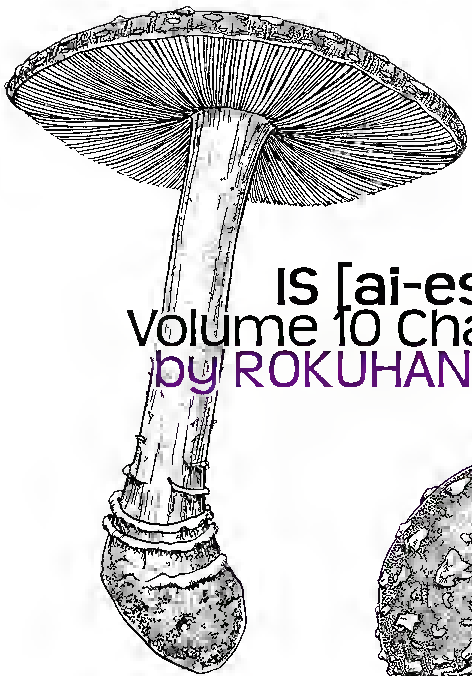
A good song remains in your heart
Please look to your right.
Micchan, that's your left!!
It's the same for everyone
Every time the guide got flustered, someone sang "Fight!"
Oh! Who's up next?
Fiiight!
Go Hashima!
Woohoo!
I was so scared, I ran away My only enemy is myself
They're good kids.

Those who don't fight may laugh at you
Fight! You're a fighter and this is your soooong
Hearing my voice in the mic,
And I still hate my chest...
I sounded just like a girl
made me hesitat...
But...
And feeling like a girl
with Ibuki

I'm going to stop rejecting the girl inside of me.
Fight!
All right, I'm gonna show you what I can do!!
Though you shiver
Keep swimming
through the cold
waaaaaaater
And once I accepted the girl inside me,
my heart felt lighter.

It's Class A's bus!!
I was able to think
It's OK to just be me.

Under the wide open sky that day
I was able to forgive the girl inside me
for the first time.



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Culinary Arts
Students

I've never been in love.
キャッ
キャッ
Day 3, Furano, Morning
Can I borrow your hair-dryer?
……
サラ
サラ
Why do I feel like I've lost?

You guys...!
That smells good!
It stinks in here!
Lemongrass
Floral
It's fine...
No, it's not!! A girl can't go out looking like that.
I said it's fine....
Julia-chan, you've got bedhead!!
I'll fix it!!
OASIS
The Mousy Group

Julia-chan!
"Julia!"
Because of increasing internationali-zation,
my parents named me Julia
Her name's Julia?
Haha!
Julia.
Julia-chan!
A person's worth...
That name doesn't suit her at all!
Haha!
This is Yamada Julia.
She's going to be your new friend
But it always made me sad.
ピシ

What's important is a beautiful heart!!
A person's worth is not determined by their appearance, Maki.
The soul!!
ぱちくり
I think...

Sexy
Really?
It's more important to be pretty enough
to wear a string bikini, don't you?
Ay
Noooo!
Let me untie the string!
The truth is
lately I've been thinking...
Yocchan has such a pretty neck
Good morning
Julia
and she had a boyfriend
Though he turned out to be a jerk
Let's go!
And Maki's cute and there's a guy who likes her
Though he looks like a grasshopper

And then there's Haru...
Hoshino!
ピン
ow!
What!?
Is it true you stayed in the same room as Hirai-san last night!?
.....
Yeah.
Seriously!?
Wah!!
And ...?
And!?
What were her pajamas like?
I can't tell you that
ぴぃーぴぃー

a string bikini?
Huh? Was that her pajamas?
And there was a flower print around her middle.
And it was see-through ...
See-through
And the bottoms were...
?
The top
Um-huh, uh-huh, uh-huh
looked like this.
Haru
.....
Hey, Motoki!
Hirai-san in a string bikini.
String bikini.
has a cute "tomboy" look.
"W- started kissing and I couldn't stop."

Mom
Huh? What?!
Is a beautiful heart really what's important?
Or is it really
Go, Hoshina!
a beautiful appearance?

Huh...!?
グイーン
Wow...!

Don't worry.
Th, this is dangerous.
Um...
Is he going to stay on the wrong side the whole way!?
Look.
...Wait a sec.
Wow.
It stretches out forever!!
You guys sang "Fight!" whenever the guide got flustered, didn't you?
Uh, not really.
...He's right.
Were you worried?
You guys
No one's coming.
You're a level-headed one.
are good kids.

Ahaha
What!?
What's going on?
Huh?
ドキン
He's playing around with the boys...
I got lavender ice cream.
Julia-chaaaan
Ice cream.
Ahaha
しょうか
After all, look at his haircut.
I guess he's lot younger than he looks...?
Oh!!
Aren't you gonna say thank you?
He's cute.
♡
きゅん

This is for you.
Oh
Thank you
Thank you for the beautiful view
Huh ?
This is for you
Huh ?
The view was beautiful.
Thank you.

(She's cute behind her glasses.)

*Book: Sapporo Love Hotels

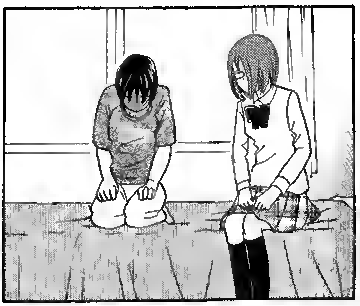
Mom.
I think looks are important
Let's take a picture!
I'm not that cute
BOYS BE AMB
I'm just ordinary
Ahaha
And no one notices me
Huh? What?
Who knows
ガーン
Just watch. If I put my mind to it...
スリスリ
ペタペタ

I don't think
ガックリ
anyone will ever like me.
That's careless...
キイ
Haru?

Haru?
うわあああ

I'm not 100% male.

trying to sort things out.
?
In my head.



I'm

That's what I said, right?
And I think it's true.
There's part of me that's female.
I want to accept it.
But I hate my breasts and stuff...
So...
I want to learn to accept everything.
One by one.
There are female organs inside me.
And they are slowly working.
So I got my period...
And my breasts...

I want to be confident.
I won't hate them so much.
...And maybe someday
This body
is different,
but I want to accept it little by little.
I went to Haru's room
But Haru's problems are in another league.
Oh!
I have those caramels from Mak
Haru knows what it's like to have a complex about your body.
because I thought Haru would understand

Huh?
... Sorry.
This body is different...
I've got to go.
Huh? Didn't you come here for some-thing?
When I'm with you, I think...
"Haru is amazing."
So strong and optimistic...
Julia?
It's nothing.
And compared to you...
Sorry.

Brrrring
Oh yeah... the rumors?
Sorry.
Lucky
Oh... Ibuki?
I suck.
I wish I had someone
I'll be right there.
Huh...? Really?
I want to fall in love, too.

Lucky.
Night 3, sightseeing in Sapporo
Come on, let's go get ramen.
Does an ugly exterior
reflect one's heart?
I feel utterly wretched
Julia!
Let's go.
Come on!!
Hhaha!

Thanks to you, I can't get any girls.
After Hatano's abortion
the girls at school don't want anything to do with us.
Yoshida!
And.
Stop it!
does that mean my heart is ugly?

Don't engage him, Julia.
But...
...Huh?
Liesl?
Quit spreading those lies!
You're a miserable excuse for a human being!
What?
Why...
don't you deny it?
Was it just me?
.....
Was I the only one who didn't know?
That's cold!

Was I the only one!?
You guys call yourselves friends?
Why didn't you tell me!?
Oh... Ju-
Wai—

HAHAHA!
It's not just the boy...
No one
cares about me.
Every-one else...
but me.
knew...
Julia!
No one... needs me.
Wait!
Julia!
Julia-chan!
Gah!
Wah!

Ouch
I'm sorry.
Ow...
...Oh.
I'm sorry for not telling you.

I didn't want you to hate me.
...Julia.
I'm sorry.
I...
I told her you were uptight.
It's my fault.
I was scared
You
never lie.

I knew
what I was doing was wrong.
And I...
Your heart is so pure.
You never lie.
But I thought
I wouldn't be able to recover if you rejected me
You warm our hearts.
You're like a mother to us.
Julia-chan...

You're so important to us.
You're someone we can always feel safe with.
ガシ
B...
Band-aids.
Here.
Band-aids.
ガサ
ガサ
ガサ

Good grief...
Here, put these on.
You guys really like me!
I cried.
I was so happy
I couldn't believe...

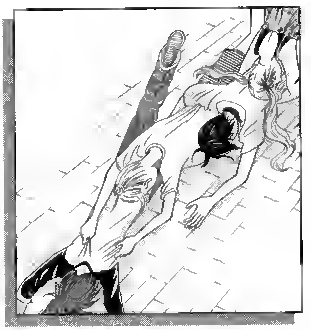
how much they all liked me.
Itadakimasu
Yum...
ズズ
I want your egg!
Maki is like a little sister
Oh
パク
And Yocchan is like a big sister

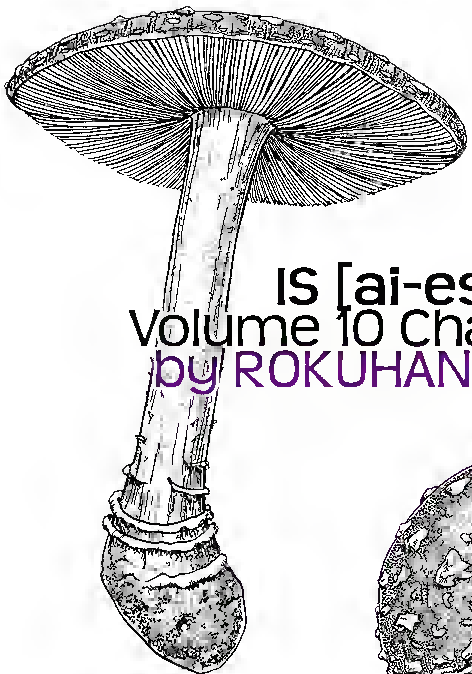
Can I get gyoza?
And Haru is neither a boy nor a girl
Hehe!
Here you go!
I...
Right?
I guess that's not surprising, though.
Everyone's different.
but in the back of my mind,
I think I'd lumped all girls together.
always said everyone is different,

カチャ
This trip
made me realize
they're all different
And that it's natural for me to be different, too.
It gave me courage.
When it comes to differences,
If we considered the good things idiosyncrasies
wouldn't it be great

and ignored the bad things?
That's what I think, anyway.
I...
Whenever I try to find a boyfriend,
all I see are my faults.
ガタ
am putting a temporary moratorium on love!!
So I'm going to stop.
And...

When I'm with them, my heart is beautiful.
Because I love them so much
that the heart is what's important, Mom.
If some guy still falls for me,
Whaaat?
It really is true
he'll totally be my slave.
Thank you, everyone.
Mom, this trip
is one I'll remember for the rest of my life.





IS [ai-esu]
Volume 10 Chapter 43
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That's Class G's bus!!
Through the bus window,
I finally saw Hoshino.
Day 3, Furano to Sapporo

This was our final destination.
Hey, did you hear?
There's a secret route in the place we're staying tonight.
In other words, you can get to the girls' floor without the teachers catching you.
Make some good memories.
ニヤ
Tonight's the last night of your trip.

The secret route.
Hey.
D'you think it's true?
...Huh?
Huh?
What about your hands,
Who knows ---
Why me?
Should I ask him?
Motoki, I mean...
Why don't you try it out, Ibuki?
Why are they wet? You didn't even wash your hands.
Daimon
That's cold!
I'll let 'em air dry.

was in our group because we had an odd number.
Soccer team
Soccer team
No club
Beep
Hello, my name is Lillian.
Waaaa!
Quit it!
beep
& mail me.
beep
Hello, my name
beep
Let's play.
He's kind of weird.
ガチッ

Oh.
So that's where he goes to the bathroom.
Hey!
Hi!
Wh, what?
You're a weirdo, Ibuki.
Like you're one to talk.
But I was glad Daimon was there.

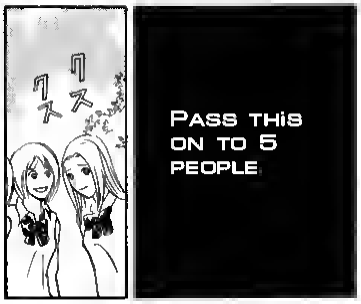
Ibuki-kun! Take a picture with us!
With him there, I was able to hide it.
パシャッ
What do you think you're doing?
Oh, sorry.
?
I just went to the bathroom and didn't wash my hands.
Daimon, you just do whatever you want, don't you?
You see...
ペロ
ペロ
キャアアア

I feel like I don't have anything in common
with the guys on the soccer team I used to hang out with.
Lately,
Oh, where'd you get that?
Stole it from a girl.
that first-year XX really pisses me off
And...
What about XX-senpai?
.....

and reunited
with my mom and sister.
It started when I met Hoshino
Ibuki
never hangs around with us anymore?
Oh, you heading back to the bus, Ibuki?
Does it seem like
that I've changed.
And I think maybe it's just
Then...
Hey, look at this.

a nasty rumor about us started making the rounds.
Hey, Ibuki.

BIG NEWS!!
HOSHINO HARU ADMITTED TO GOING OUT WITH ISUKI KENJI FROM CLASS A!!


PASS THIS ON TO 5 PEOPLE.

Haruuuuuuu!
I'm so ugly!
But we couldn't meet up alone on the trip.
ガチッ
...Yeah, I'll be there soon.
About the rumor?
Yeah, sorry.
Hey, Hoshino.
Sapporo, after their walk.
And soon
everyone had heard the rumor.

ガラッ
Should we be doing this?
H, hey.
What do you mean?
I mean, isn't this like a harem
to Ibuki?
Right? I mean, he likes guys, doesn't he?
WAAAAH!
You're right! A harem!?
He can hear you, stupid!

Eeeek! He's gonna rape us! ♡
Please don't get all hot and bothered!!
……
So...
Don't look, Kenji!
I thought...
Wah! Quit it!
I love you!
Hey, guys...
Prejudice...
Lies...
All the discrimination...

From...
everyone!?
Does Hoshino really understand what we're in for?
slam
That's taking it too far!
S,
sorry..
Ibuki!?

I can't do that.
I was scared of how they looked at me.
I haven't changed at all.
I thought I'd gotten stronger...
But I realized
my "strength" was about as strong as papier-mache.

beep
My name is Lillian. ♡
Wait!
Wait, come back!!
It's not like that, Ibuki!!
It's OK, I think that's totally a personal choice!

"Welcome!"
That's how it started
She comes into the shop where I work every day...
"Shall I heat it up for you?"
.....
"Yes, please."
"It sure is hot today."
"Where"
"XX High's night school."
"do you go to school?"
"Oh yeah? I have a friend who goes there."
"Will you go out with me?"

"...But..."
"I...
...like you, Daimon-kun."
And then...
.....
ぴょこ
"My name is Mi-tan. I'm fwee."
"I...have a daughter."
What... should I do?
I like her...

Should I turn back...?
But she has a lot of heavy baggage
Should I
"I didn't expect you to go out with me."
"Don't worry about it, OK?"
...I...
"And I'll go away."
"If you get sick of me, just say so."
back off before I hurt her?

and
I like
Hoshino
because Hoshino has so many things I lack
Is with me when things are rough
when Hoshino decided to tell everyone about being intersex,
But
I ran away.
so this time
...I want to protect Hoshino.
...I hurt Hoshino once,
Sometimes I still get worried and can't do it.

So...
I can't
...really give you any advice.
"Men are such cowards." ♡
Haha...
I think
that really is
true.
...But...
there've been times
on this trip...

and wishing we could see it together.
Like when I'm eating something really good
and wish I could share it,
or finding a beautiful view
This is just like any other love,
.....
this is all we need.
so maybe

SORRY
Hoshino?
?
IT'S OK IF YOU DUMP ME, I WON'T MIND
Y, you're the failure!
Sorry
How rude! I'm—
Good luck!
Failboy.
Hun? Secret route?
I pretended to be Hoshino's friend
but was really just taking advantage of Hoshino's feelings...
H, hey, you'll get in trouble
where's that secret route?
D. Daimon
Hoshino's always protected m...
Uh...

"Supposedly it's a staff hallway."
There!
"Past the emergency exit there's a door that looks just like a room door."
I have to see Hoshino.
カン
"I'm sorry for all the trouble I've caused."
カン
カン
"This is all my fault."
チャッ
"Ibuki."

"And you never meant
for us to be anything more than friends."
"So
it's OK if you dump me, I won't mind."
はな
"You can say that. I just had a crush on you."
"I want
you to get along with everyone else."
Hoshino, open the door.
チャッ
Huh...?

はっ
はっ
はっ
I had to see you
and tell you in person.

Let's be open about this.
I've always been scared of what others think and I ran away.
.....
But there's no reason for us to hide

Let's
stand tall.
So
don't
Together.
.....
say stuff like
"it's OK if you dump me".

I...
don't want to be separated from you.
Sorry ...
so...
I told them about us.
But I had to do some-thing
to stop the rumor about Yocchan.
I went ...
and told every one.

I'm sorry.
Ibuki.
If not for those three,
I would never have met you...
so...
Will you
...forgive me?
Of... of course.
Come on.
The way we were pressed together,

I could feel the shape of Hoshino's body.
I want...
to feel even more.
バキ
The smell of sweet shampoo...
Did you
Oh...
take a shower?
The rising desire...

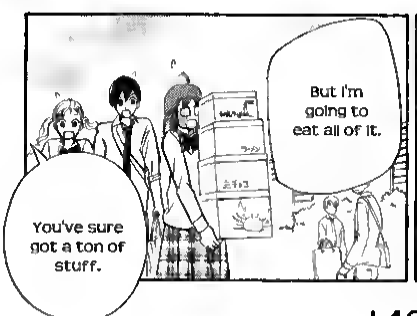
You're
a little
...damp.
Hoshino.
Mmm...
That slender body
began to tremble...

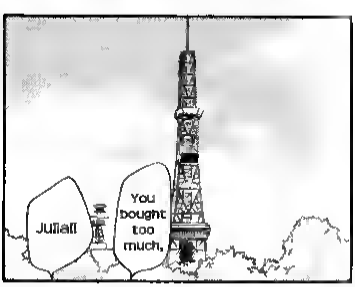
gently wrap Hoshino up...
I want to
I hope someday
touching
will bring us happiness.
Let's save this for later.
Huh...?
Let's come back here
when we're grown up.

Together.
And let's save this kiss
for then.
Good night.
Hoshino.

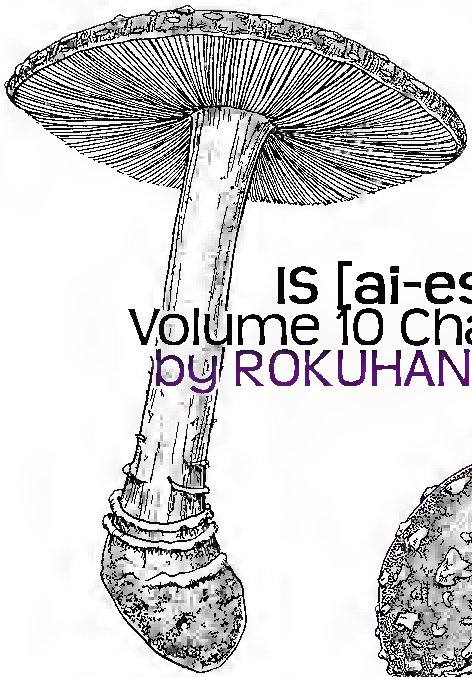
Uh...
.....
...I want
you to stay
...a little longer.
This trip
made me realize what's important
and what I should protect.

Hoshino is the most important thing to me.
I love you...


You've sure got a ton of stuff.
But I'm going to eat all of it.


Julia!!
You bought too much.

I stopped pretending to be just a friend.
Let me carry some.
So that day
Sure.
I bought a doll.
For Mi-tan.
I want to treasure Hoshino.
Because having Hoshino by my side
is what makes me happy!!



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CASE 3：春㊺

Whoa!!
silence...
カチ
Wah!
Wahhhhh!
!!
Gah!
He went in!!
Hoshino!
Eeeep!
Open the door!

……
What should I do?
I followed Ibuki without thinking
……
Hirai-san...
"I want to talk to you more."
ぽおお
My goddess
is on the other side of this door...
302

Note: Koro-pok-guru is the name of a race of small people in Ainu folklore
Micro Monkey,
and basically anything small.
Koro-pok-guru,
Tiny,
I get called
Want
What should I do!?
Height: 162 cm
But the girls seemed to like me.
"He's so cute!"
"I love you, Motoki kun!"
And I didn't think it was all bad.
But at some point I realized it was just talk.
Their "cute" was the same "cute" they'd use for dogs or cats.
And their "love" was no different from what they felt for cake and chocolate.

Hahaha!
Just laugh it off.
I've never been the most important person to the person I like
"You're a good person, Motoki kun."
Motoki Hirotaka, age 17.
"But I'm sorry."
As thanks for being so nice to your guide.
A special tip
Yeah.
But...
"A secret route?"
Today when we got off the bus...
"In other words, you can get to the girls' floor without the teachers catching you."
Even if it's true...

Huh?
How could you...?
I doubt the girls'd open the door for us.
Hirai san and her boyfriend Murofushi-kun
ゴシゴシ
Stop!
Am I just imagining it? She looks unhappy.
Wait...
Huh...!?

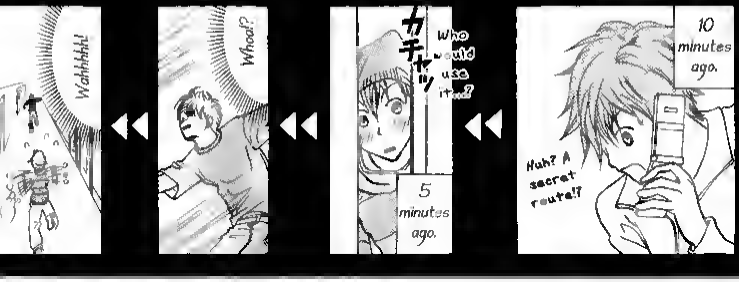
Hey!
...What!?
Murofushi-kun, 185 cm
...Hey, hey, hey, heyyyyy! ♫
♫ Wow, look at this, guys!
Souvenirs
A lavender-scented eye mask!
Huh? Really!?
I've never seen one of those before!
Sign: Souvenirs
お み や げ
Ahaha!

Mo... to...
Ki...
ニャカ♪
ニャカ♪
ブロロロ
kun. ♡
!?
スピピー
Shh'
ガヤヤ

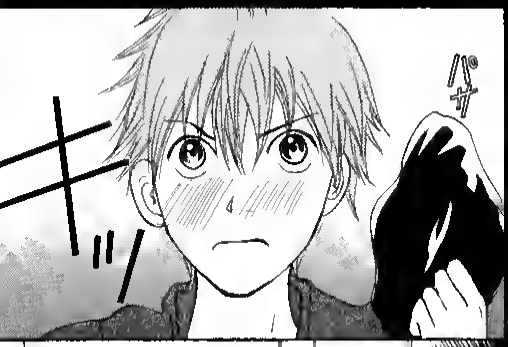
ブロロロ
チャリ
They broke up.
I thought we'd broken up but...
Sure.
Can I sit here?
Oh...no problem.
Thanks for helping me out there.
.....
You know ...?
won't leave me alone.
he just
I wouldn't want to let her go, either
She's so pretty.
I can kinda understand how Morofushi kun feels.
Yeah...

Good.
but I didn't feel nervous talking to her
Maybe it's 'cause we're on vacation
Oh... yeah.
Is your arm OK?
He didn't hurt you?
No.
It's not right if you're unhappy.
... But ...
And...
Mm...
ドキ
exchange phone numbers?
Um...you want to
Uh... sure.
And...
ドキ

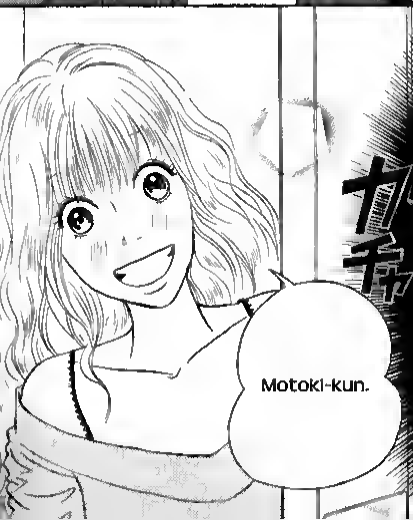
Whaaaaaaat!!?
I want to talk to you some more.
Tonight
I heard from the driver that there's a secret route.
A goddess has descended !!
It's here, it's here!
It's here!
My "big wave" is finally here!



HEH...! HEHEHEHEHEHEHEHEHEHEHE!



...And so I'm saying goodbye to a life of second best.



From this moment on, I'm a new man!!

ドキーン
Come in.
Th...
Thanks.
Sh, she's so cute
And I'm supposed to talk to her...!?
Me!?
You sure brought a lot.
Oh, yeah, I thought your roommate might want some.
Snacks
She's not here.
!?
She used the secret route to go on a date with her boyfriend.
Till morning.
Whaaaat!?
Oh... really?
Till... morning ?
So that means..
Um!

Note: The kanji over Motoki's head says "seiza", which is a type of formal kneeling.
!?
正座
I...
am serious about my feelings!
.....
I've...
.....
...I, um
well...
I've always been serious about girls I liked
and ever since I started high school, I...

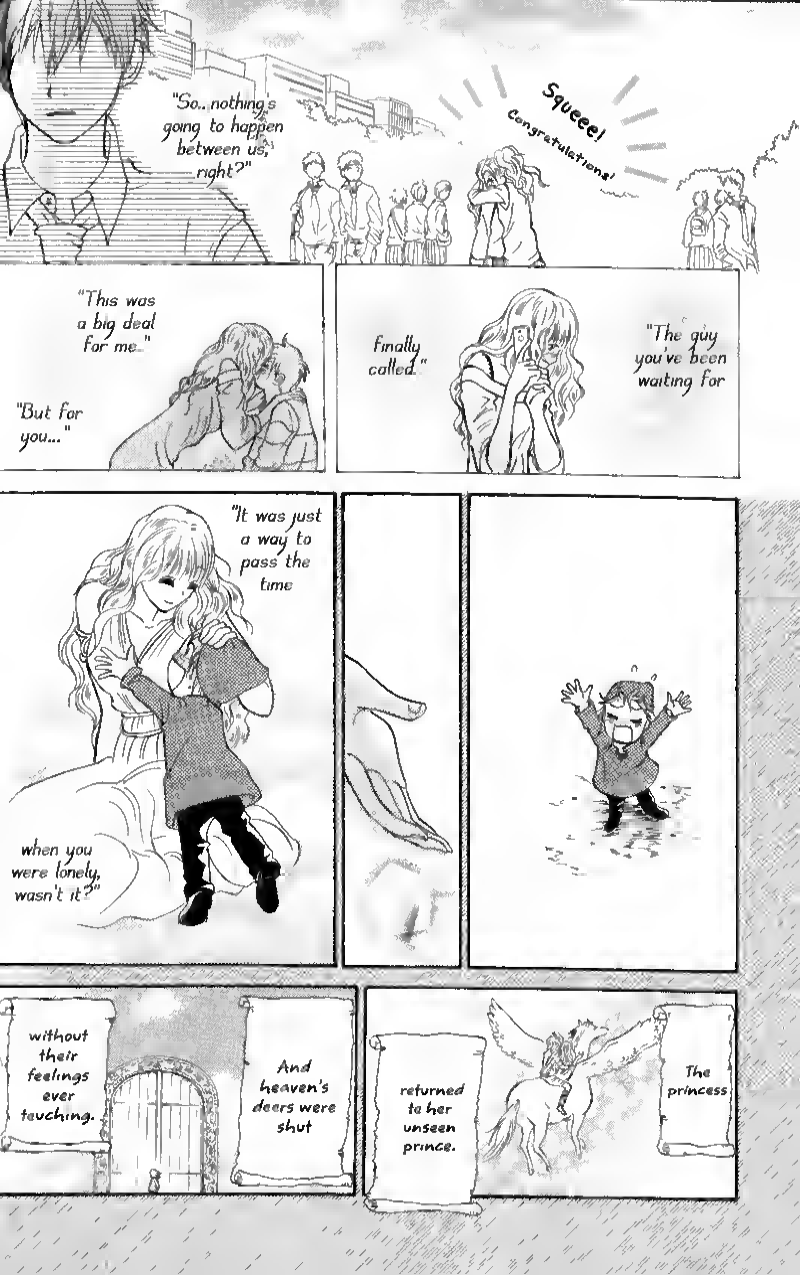
y...
y...
I've...
always liked...
I've only had feelings
for... you.
I'm happy.
I wish
I'd met
You're so genuine... Motoki -kun.
Uh...

you first...
Reflexively,
without thinking
I closed my eyes
Her lips
were cool and soft.
From far away, I heard...
a phone ringing ...?

at me.
Then she glanced
In a tearful voice
she said, "I'm so happy you called"
Next thing I knew .
301
I was out in the hall.

was the last day of our trip.
Hoshino and Ibuki began dating openly
Let me carry some.
The next day
And everyone was talking about that.
Nah, not really, right?
Hahaha!
Two guys!?
The rumors were true!?
No way...
M, morn...ing.
But I had more on my mind than that.
Monkey, you knew?
Yeah ...
What!?

Morning.
The same question kept going round and round in my head.
Why?
I went to see the person I liked, too.
So why'd we get such different results?
I hear he called you.
Morning!


"So.. nothing's going to happen between us, right?"
Squee!
Congratulations!
"This was a big deal for me..."
"But for you..."
Finally called."
"The guy you've been waiting for
"It was just a way to pass the time
when you were lonely, wasn't it?"
without their feelings ever touching.
And heaven's doors were shut
returned to her unseen prince.
The princess

"Am I...
second place again?"
ガタ
ガタ
ガタ
...it
was all I could do
to hold the words in...

It's not fair, God.
Lucky you, Motoki
That song...
...so did you talk to Hirai-san already?
ガターン
I hate this.
Motoki!?
Motoki?

ダダダ
I can't take it anymore.
はあ
はあ
バン
AAAAARGH!
Why!?
We kissed, so how come I feel like this!?

But I'm always just sad!
I should be happy!
the big question!
I can never ask
"I can never be number one."
Because I'm short
and get an inferiority complex!
and accept it
I just have to give up

And just smile and laugh at everything!
Why?
is my complex.
All I can see

びく
S...
sorry...
What...
are you doing here ...?
ヘナヘナ

...Er...
It's just...
The gossip's so bad
...I had to escape
Of course it is.
You've gotta get better at this.
Yeah... I know...
But Ibuki said he didn't want to break up.
And...
I want to put his feelings first, so...

You guys are both each other's first choice...
Lucky ...
No...
.....
like that.
It's not...
He's special.
He's the only one
who accepts me
and likes me for who I am.

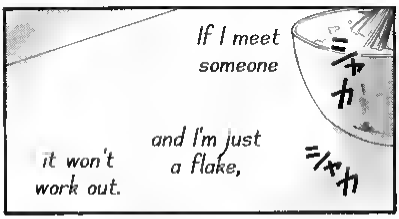
I thought Haru was amazing
to be able to put someone else's needs above his own.
カリ
チャッ
Anyway, I've gotta go.
My battery's recharged now!
Hahaha
Sorry to bother you!
so I have to treasure him...
……
They were each special to each other.
And I thought that made them
so cool.

Is there
someone like that for me somewhere?
...If only I could meet her
maybe I could overcome
the things I hate about myself...

Training II
What... are you doing?
You know, no matter how hard you try
シャカ
シャカ
シャカ

Boys' Ear
Morning Cake
シャカ
シャカ
シャカ
シャカ

Not as long as Hoshino's here.
you'll never be #1.
You're just wasting your time


If I meet someone
and I'm just a flake,
it won't work out.
シャカ
シャカ

You'll always be second best...
I don't care!
スコーン

So...
シャカ
シャカ

If I can't stand on my own,
we won't be able to support each other...

I've got to get started.
Um...
Huh...?
Please share these
with your boyfriend.
.....
We're classmates ...
so I don't want things to be awkward between us.
I want to reset...or rather, I want us both to act like nothing happened...um ...I mean...
Anyway!

I want you to be happy!
Moto ..ki -kun.
I...
No cookies for crybabies.
Sorr ...
U...
Thank you.

Yes!
Now I've got closure.
Next I just have to work on self-improvement!!!
パタン
Someday my complex will disappear...
ボタ
Training.
Training.
Crap, my heart is sweating.
ゴシゴシ

You can do it.
Have some guts.
...Come on.
And so...
They say you'll get 10 grams of guts if you eat—
ゴン
No more of your nonsense.
these are called "Koro-pok -guru's Guts"
and they represent the tears he cried that day.

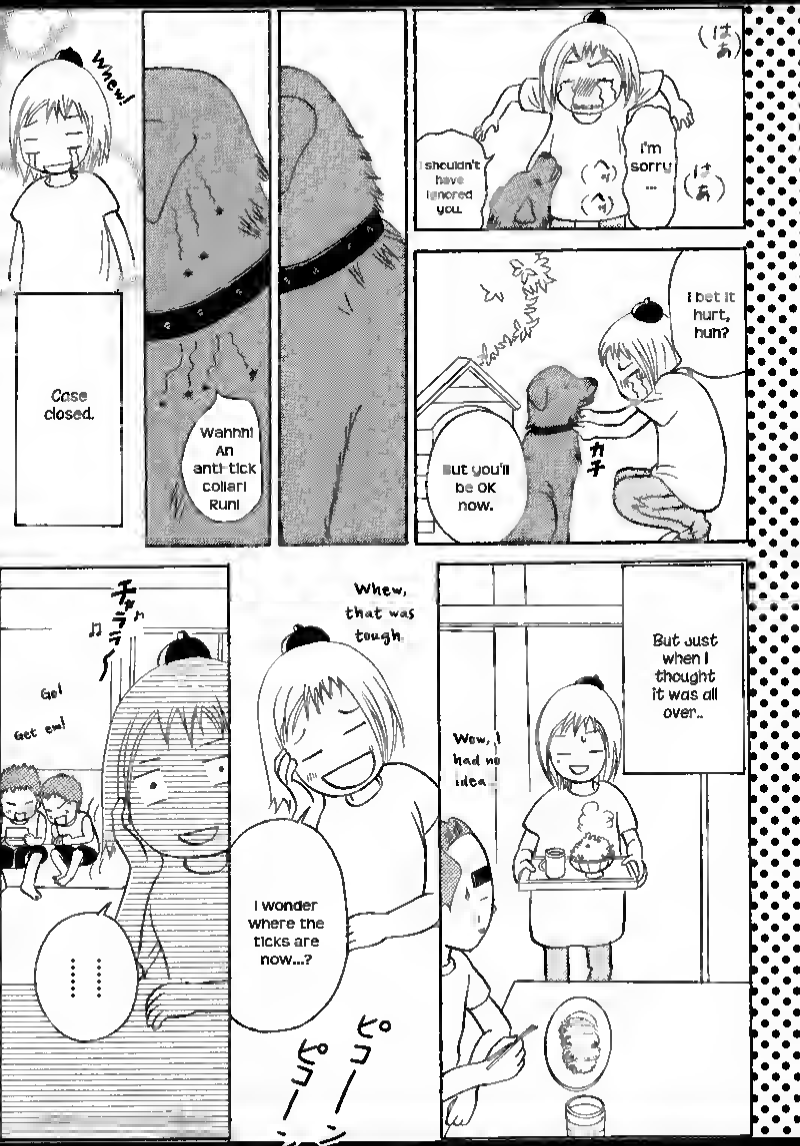
●I.S.男でも女でもない性10／おわり●

所載/2007年 KissNo.10~14

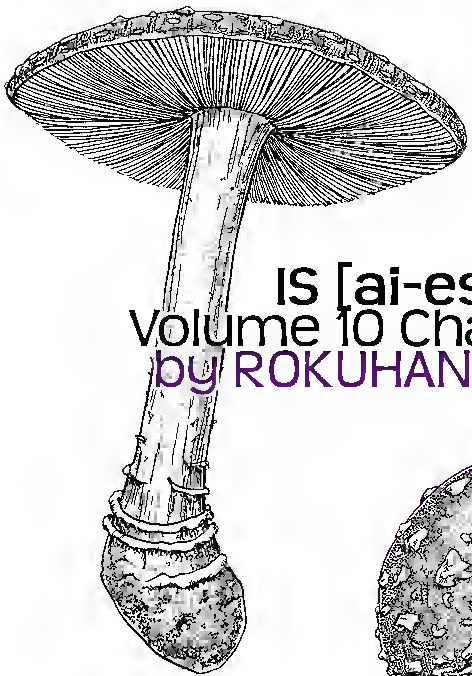
Afterword
Hello, Rokuhana here
It's summer right now.
And you know what summer means.
Bugs!!
I thought I'd write about living creatures.
And so this time
Sorry it's always the same.
This happened last year.
I was really stressed out with work
I can't do it!
and there was a week or so where I didn't pay much attention to my dog.
Sorry!
Come on, let's go for a walk.
Huh?
I noticed he had a weird freckle.
What?
How'd this get here?

Vet
わひ
ゆひ
Brought it in
He had picked it up when we were out on a walk.
It's a TICK.
わひ
AAAAARG
What the hell!?
and when they're full, they fall off and breed.
ポロリ
suck blood
Ticks
My b*lls.
Huh?
My b*lls.
Huh!?
One got me, too.
Wahhh...
It hurts when they bite.
On my b*lls.

And so I went right out and bought an anti-tick collar...
I sure was surprised
S, Sensei... I may be old, but I'm still a woman
No... way...
It already bred...
!?
What !?
What's it still doing there?
I took it off this morning.
Gasp!
They fall off and breed...
Now you won't get bit again!
But when I went to put it on him...
AAAARGH!
It looks like grapes!
Grapes made of ticks!
Full of ticks


Whew!
Case closed.
Wahhh! An anti-tick collar! Run!
(はあ)
I'm sorry...
I shouldn't have ignored you.
I bet it hurt, hun?
But you'll be OK now.
ガチ
But just when I thought it was all over..
Wow, I had no idea
Whew, that was tough.
I wonder where the ticks are now...?
ピコーン
チャラ♪
Go! Get em!
……

They moved
Gasp!
Kind of puppyish
L, let me just have a look.
Uuuuuuu!
Give me a break!
Huh?
How can you not notice!?
There might just be ticks close to you, too
And take better care of the kids
And clean, too
If you ever think that, you'd better be careful.
"Huh? A freckle?"
I have to take better care of my dog
Oooh, cool!
I started working a little harder
I've got to hurry up and finish work..
Mike no Niwa has been a helpful resource http://www.mikeniwa.net/
Warning: Ticks can cause scrub typhus and lyme disease, so if you get bit, be sure to go to the hospital!!



IS [ai-esu]
Volume 10 Chapter 45
by ROKUHANA Chiyo

Ki: Typeset
malaysian branch

Koshi: Scanned
canadian branch

Megchan: Translated
american branch

Fourchaise: Cleaned
french branch

Dokukinoko Scanlations
[dokukinokoscans.blogspot.com]